In order to further increase the production and productivity of cereals, the Government has launched National Food Security Mission (NFSM) from Rabi 2007-08. The NFSM aims at increasing the production of rice by 10 million tonnes and wheat by 8 million tonnes in the targeted districts of the country, by the end of the 11th Plan *i.e.* 2011-2012.

To increase the production and productivity of sugarcane in the country, Government is also implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System (SUBACS) in different States subsumed under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture since April 2004. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has also developed more than 700 high yielding varieties and 28 hybrids suitable for different agro-climatic conditions. Frontline demonstrations are also organised by ICAR on farmers' fields on 100% Central Government assistance for transfer of technology. Also research efforts are on by the ICAR in the various areas for increasing production and productivity of crops.

Steps to provide quality seeds for high production

†2017. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is formulating any scheme to provide quality seeds to farmers in order to increase the production in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is considering to take assistance from private sector also to implement this scheme;

(d) whether private sector companies have expressed their interest in this scheme; and

(e) if so, the details of such companies alongwith the details of the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government is implementing several schemes to provide quality seeds to farmers. The details of the Schemes are given in the statement-I (*See* below).

(c) to (e) The National Seed Policy, 2002 envisages a greater role for the private sector in seed production in the country. Private sector contributed 41.09% of the seed produced in 2007-08 *i.e.* 76.50 lakh quintals. The Government of India also implements a Scheme to boost seed production in the private sector. Assistance is provided through credit linked back-ended capital subsidy at the rate of 25% of the project cost subject to a maximum limit of Rs.10 lakh per unit on seed infrastructure development. The assistance has been enhanced to a maximum limit of Rs.25 lakh per unit on seed infrastructure development in the Eleventh plan (2007-08 onwards). The details of the assistance availed of by different States under the scheme is given in the Statement-II.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement-I

Details of Assistance/Subsidy for seed production and distribution provided under existing Schemes/Programme

Sl.No.	Scheme/Component	Crop	Scale of Assistance
1	2	3	4
	Macro Management Mode of Agriculture-State Work Plan	Rice and Wheat Bajra, Jowar, Ragi and Barley	(i) Rs.500/- per quintal or 50% of the cost, whichever is less for certified seed distribution for rice and wheat. (ii) Rs.800/- per quintal or 50% of the cost, whichever is less for certified seed distribution of varieties for Bajra, Jowar and Barley (iii) Rs.1000/- per quintal for certified seed distribution of hybrid of Bajra and Jowar. (iv) Rs. 1000/- quintal or 50% of the cost, whichever is less for assistance for production hybrid rice seed. (v) Rs.2000/- per quintal or 50% of the cost, whichever is less assistance for production hybrid rice seed distribution.
	Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize	All Oilseeds, Pulses and Maize	(i) Full cost for purchase of Breeder seed. (ii) Rs. 1000/- quintal for foundation and certified seed production. (iii) Rs.1200/- per quintal or 25% of Seeds cost whichever is less for certified seed distribution. (iv) Full cost of Seed Minikits of high yielding varieties (implementing agency NSC/SFCI).
		Oil Palm Sprouts	(v) 75% of the cost with a ceiling of Rs.7500/ha. for entire land holding of farmers.
	Technology Mission on Cotton	Cotton Seed	(i) 50% of the cost or Rs.50/- per kg. whichever is less for foundation seed production. (ii) 25% of the cost or Rs.15/- per kg. whichever is less for Certified seed production. (iii) Rs.20/- per kg. for certified seed distribution. (iv) 50% of the cost limited to Rs.40/- per kg. seed treatment

1	2	3	4
Technology Mission on Jute and Mesta		Jute and Mesta	(i) 50% of the cost limited to Rs.3000/- per quintal for foundation seed production. (ii) 25% of the cost limited to Rs.700/- per quintal for Certified seed production (iii) 50% of the cost limited to Rs.2000/- per quintal for certified seed distribution.
National Food Security Mission		Rice	(i) Rs.1000/- per quintal or 50% of the cost whichever is less for certified hybrid rice seed production. (ii) Rs. 2000/- per quintal or 50% of Seeds cost whichever is less for certified hybrid rice seed distribution (iii) Rs.5/- per kg. or 50% of the cost, whichever is less for certified high, yielding varieties seed distribution (iv) Full cost of Seed Minikits of high yielding varieties.
		Wheat	(i) Rs.5/- per kg. or 50% of the cost whichever is less for certified high yielding varieties seed distribution (ii) Full cost of Seed Minikits of high yielding varieties.
		Pulses	(i) Rs.1000/- per quintal for foundation and certified seeds production, (ii) Rs.1200/- per quintal or 50% of the cost whichever is less for certified seed distribution. (iii) Full cost of Seed Minikits of high yielding varieties
Seed Village Programme		All Agri-cultural Crops	(i) To upgrade the quality of farmer saved seed financial assistance for distribution of foundation/certified seeds at 50% cost of the seed for production of quality seeds. (ii) Assistance to train the farmers on seed production and seed technology @ Rs. 15000/- for a group of 50-150 farmers.
Transport subsidy on Movement of Seeds to North Eastern States including Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh Jammu &Kashmir, Uttarakhand & Hill areas of West Bengal		All certified seeds excluding Potato	(i) 100% difference between road and rail transportation charge is being reimbursed to implementing States/Agencies for movement of seeds produced from outside the State to the identified State Capital/District Headquarter. (ii) Actual cost restricted to maximum limit of Rs.60/- per quintal whichever is less for movement of seeds transported from state Capital/District Headquarter to sale outlets/ sale counters is being reimbursed.

Statement-II

Details of proposal approved for creation of seed infrastructure in private sector as on 10.10.2008

State	No. of proposal processed	Capacity of Infrastructure (Qtls)		Amount released as 1st Installment in Rs	Total involvement of subsidy in the State (Rs)
		Processing Capacity	Storage Capacity		
Andhra Pradesh	13	270000	85633	4993315	9986630
Bihar	1	20000	1240	54381	108762
Gujrat	7	130000	12805	1414055	3582288
Haryana	10	245000	60390	2734993	5195928
Himachal Pradesh	1	20000	0	64201	128402
Karnataka	2	70000	5930	585552	1072229
Madhya Pradesh	7	180000	59649	2317659	4514853
Maharashtra	6	120000	23023	1461010	2913337
Orissa	4	90000	18230	1124851	2258609
Punjab	6	215000	52837	2169746	4237459
Rajasthan	5	120000	17500	1212767	1768004
Tamil Nadu	21	255000	97060	3803472	7416990
Uttar Pradesh	35	515000	312808	13015024	24986663
Uttaranchal	24	470000	292348	7432730	15593636
West Bengal	7	145000	51170	2126885	4054153
	149	2865000	1090623	44510641	87817943

Measures to step up agricultural research works

†2018. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to expedite agriculture research works;

(b) the different works carried out under agriculture research during the last three years and current year;

(c) the Government's reaction in this regard;

(d) whether there is scarcity of agriculture scientists in the field of research work;

(e) if so, the details thereof along with reasons therefor; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.